

## AUSTRIA / SOUTH AFRICA JOINT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2019-2020 JOINT PROJECTS

**Closing Date: 30 April 2018**

A maximum of 20 joint projects will be funded for this call

The programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation is carried out in the frame of the bilateral “*Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy of the Republic of Austria on Scientific and Technological Cooperation*” and is financed equally by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and by the South African Department of Science and Technology (DST).

#### AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

This Programme aims to:

- contribute to scientific advancement in both countries by funding researchers’ mobility in the frame of joint research projects in specified research fields;
- provide an opportunity for researchers to cooperate in an international setting and to develop their scientific careers, especially for early-stage<sup>1</sup>, mid-career<sup>2</sup> as well as female researchers.
- support the advancement of basic research; and
- contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

#### AREAS OF COOPERATION

The call is open to all scientific disciplines and thematic areas, including social sciences as well as and the humanities.

#### **Please Note:**

- Joint projects with the potential to lead to future bilateral and multilateral co-operations within the Austrian, South African and European research programmes will be favourably considered.
- Also, the joint projects that involve young scientists and pay attention to a balanced involvement of female and male researchers (gender equality) will be positively considered and will receive a higher rating.

#### DURATION OF PROJECTS

The projects will be supported for a period of two years (projects starting January 2019 and ending December 2020).

#### WHO MAY APPLY?

An application must designate two principal investigators, one in South Africa and one in Austria, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting.

**AUSTRIA:** Researchers working at universities, universities of applied sciences and other legal entities (e.g. higher education and research institutions, companies) planning to carry out a non-profit-oriented research

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<sup>1</sup> Researchers with an experience of up to 5 years after their PhD/Doctoral degree; recognized career breaks will be taken into account (e.g. due to family reasons, health reasons or occupation outside the academic sector).

<sup>2</sup> Researchers with an experience of 5 to 15 years after their PhD/Doctoral degree; recognized career breaks will be taken into account (e.g. due to family reasons, health reasons or occupation outside the academic sector).

project within the frame of this call are eligible for application.

Project proposals submitted by early-stage<sup>1</sup> or mid-career researchers<sup>2</sup> as well as project proposals with involvement of PhD/doctoral students, early-stage<sup>1</sup> and/or female researchers will be particularly considered.

The focus of the programme lies on new international partnerships. Follow-up proposals with the same research partners will not be eligible for funding if they have already been funded under this programme.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** This call is open to working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. Commercial institutions and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme. The South African applicant must be in possession of a PhD.

In terms of human capital development, South African applications from previously disadvantaged individuals and the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education and research institutions will be prioritised.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

It is up to the applicants to find their own research partners. **Proposals must be received both in Austria (OeAD GmbH) and South Africa (NRF).** Proposals which have not been received in both countries will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding. The evaluation of applications from both countries should have positive ratings before consideration for funding. Both the OeAD GmbH and the NRF will not be held responsible for non-submission, administration or evaluation of the application in the partner country.

**AUSTRIA:** the entire application for the research project must be submitted in English online at [[https://asp.sop.co.at/oead/antrag?call=S%26TSouthAfrica19\\_20](https://asp.sop.co.at/oead/antrag?call=S%26TSouthAfrica19_20)]. The application must include the following documents (in PDF format):

- Brief academic CV for each **Austrian** project member
- List of relevant publications of the last 2 years on the **Austrian** side
- Project description including the methodological part (3 to 5 A4 pages)
- Brief description of the partner institution
- Short description of the project tasks of **ALL** project members (Austrian and South African)
- Further cooperation perspective

**SOUTH AFRICA:** *Applicants can apply by following the steps below:*

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF by accessing the link: <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID number and password.
- Go to “My applications” and select “create new application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying for: SA-Austria 2018 Joint Call for Proposals.
- Remember to complete all sections of the application as indicated on the online application form.
- Please attach the necessary documents in PDF file in the following order: CV of partner, budget of partner and the signed page of the partner.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Completed applications will go to the host university for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in this document will not be considered.
- Applications submitted outside the NRF Online Submission system will not be accepted.
- No hard copies will be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NRF.
- Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted.
- Please contact the university research office if you have any queries.

## WHICH ACTIVITIES MAY I APPLY FOR?

The purpose of this call is to support the mobility of researchers between the two countries to carry out joint research projects. In this regard, funding will be made available for visits and exchanges of scientists conducting joint research in their area of specialisation.

In the case of meetings, research visits and exchanges of scientists, personnel and experts, as well as reciprocal visits undertaken as part of joint research projects and the attendance of workshops, seminars, symposia and other meetings funded under this partnership, the sending side will be responsible for all expenses associated with their travel (i.e. international travel, visas, medical insurance, accommodation and subsistence).

The following may **NOT** be funded from the funds allocation:

- Consultant's fees
- Educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries, etc.)
- Large equipment
- Project management fees
- Salaries and temporary staff fees.

In Austria in well-justified cases and only within the granted maximum budget EUR 400.- per project may be applied for consumables (lump sum). In South Africa up to 10% of the funds may be used for consumables.

## FUNDING MODALITIES

Funding will be available for a maximum of two years for collaborative research projects jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides. In both countries, all the approved projects will get funding support from the two parties in terms of the cost of activities mentioned above.

The funders will also organise a launching and closing workshops for the programme and Principal Investigators should include, in their budget plans, costs of attending these workshops (i.e. travel and accommodation). The launching workshop will be held in South Africa (planned for 1<sup>st</sup> week of December 2018 on the margins of the Science Forum South Africa 2018) and the closing workshop in Austria.

Apart from the financial support from the two parties, institutions and universities in both countries are encouraged to solicit other funding resources.

## FUNDING LIMITS

**AUSTRIA:** The total sum of **EUR 10,000.-** per project (**EUR 5,000.-** per project per year) can be applied for. The funds can be calculated as follows:

- Travel expenses: EUR 1,200.- per trip for Austrian researchers travelling to South Africa (lump sum)<sup>3</sup>.
- Accommodation expenses: EUR 90.- per day for Austrian researchers travelling to South Africa for up to 14 days OR EUR 1,300.- per month for long-term visits between 15 days and 3 months maximum.
- Material costs: EUR 400.- per project can be granted in well-justified cases as part of the granted maximum budget.

For the obligatory participation of the Principal Investigator at the joint launching and closing workshop an additional travel grant (**lump sum of EUR 2,000.-**) will be granted and has to be included in the project application. Therefore a total amount of **EUR 12,000.-** can be applied for each project.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed **R200 000** per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of two years, to be paid in annual installments (**R100 000 per year**) and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2019. This amount excludes the Principal Investigator's costs (travel and accommodation) of attending both the launching and closing workshops to be organized by the funders. The cost for the Principal Investigator's participation in these two workshops will be a top-up (**lump sum of R50 000**) on the overall amount requested for project activities and should be included in the project application. Therefore, a total amount of **R250 000** will be awarded per project (for the 2-year period).

### **Please Note:**

- Should you be successful you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines.
- For the obligatory participation at the joint launching and closing workshop additional travel grants up to a maximum of four days per workshop have to be included in the project applications.

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<sup>3</sup> In case the travel costs are at 50% of the lump sum or below, only the actual costs will be refunded on the basis of provided travel receipts.

- Scientific and financial reporting on the project is **OBLIGATORY**.
- Research stays in both countries are **OBLIGATORY**.

## HOW ARE APPLICATIONS EVALUATED?

Following the closing date indicated below, applications will be submitted to recognized national experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. These experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality of the intended research project incl.
  - Feasibility of the joint research plan
  - Adequacy of the scientific method
  - Competence and expertise of the scientists/research teams involved
  - Alignment with national priorities in each country (*max. 25 points*)
- Plausibility of the described further cooperation perspective (*max. 15 points*)
- Project proposals submitted by early-stage or mid-career researchers (10 points) OR project proposals with the involvement of doctoral students, early-stage (5 points) or female researchers (5 points) or researchers from previously-disadvantaged communities in South Africa (5 points) will receive up to 10 points additionally. (*max. 10 points*)

Following national evaluation, a shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the OeAD GmbH and the NRF based on the results of the evaluations done in both countries. The project selection will be carried out by the Austrian-South African Implementation Committee. The results of this project selection meeting will be announced presumably by October 2018.

## PROJECT FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

- A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted in English by both the Austrian and the South African project leaders no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- The report has to mention outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal.
- In Austria the final report must include a short, concise summary comprehensible to lay persons. The final report will be made available to researchers within this programme in similar disciplines.
- The joint publications by researchers has to mention the support from the BMBWF, the DST and NRF.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

## CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted by **30 April 2018**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners' applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner country in time. Both the OeAD GmbH and the NRF will not be held responsible for applications that were not received.

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR QUERIES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

In Austria	In South Africa
OeAD-GmbH (Austrian Agency for international Cooperation in Education and Research) ICM – Centre for International Cooperation & Mobility  <b>Ms Monika Wiederseder-Staltner</b> Ebendorferstraße 7 A-1010 Vienna Tel. +43 (0)1/ 53408-445 Email: <a href="mailto:wtz@oead.at">wtz@oead.at</a>	National Research Foundation  <b>For content related queries: Mr Teuns Phahlamohlaka</b> Knowledge Advancement and Support (KAS) Directorate Tel: +27 (0) 12 481 4385 Email: <a href="mailto:teuns.phahlam@nrf.ac.za">teuns.phahlam@nrf.ac.za</a>  <b>For technical queries: Mr Stephen Dlamini</b> Grants Management and Systems Administration

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